I 49.2:F 52/20

CYT
DOCS

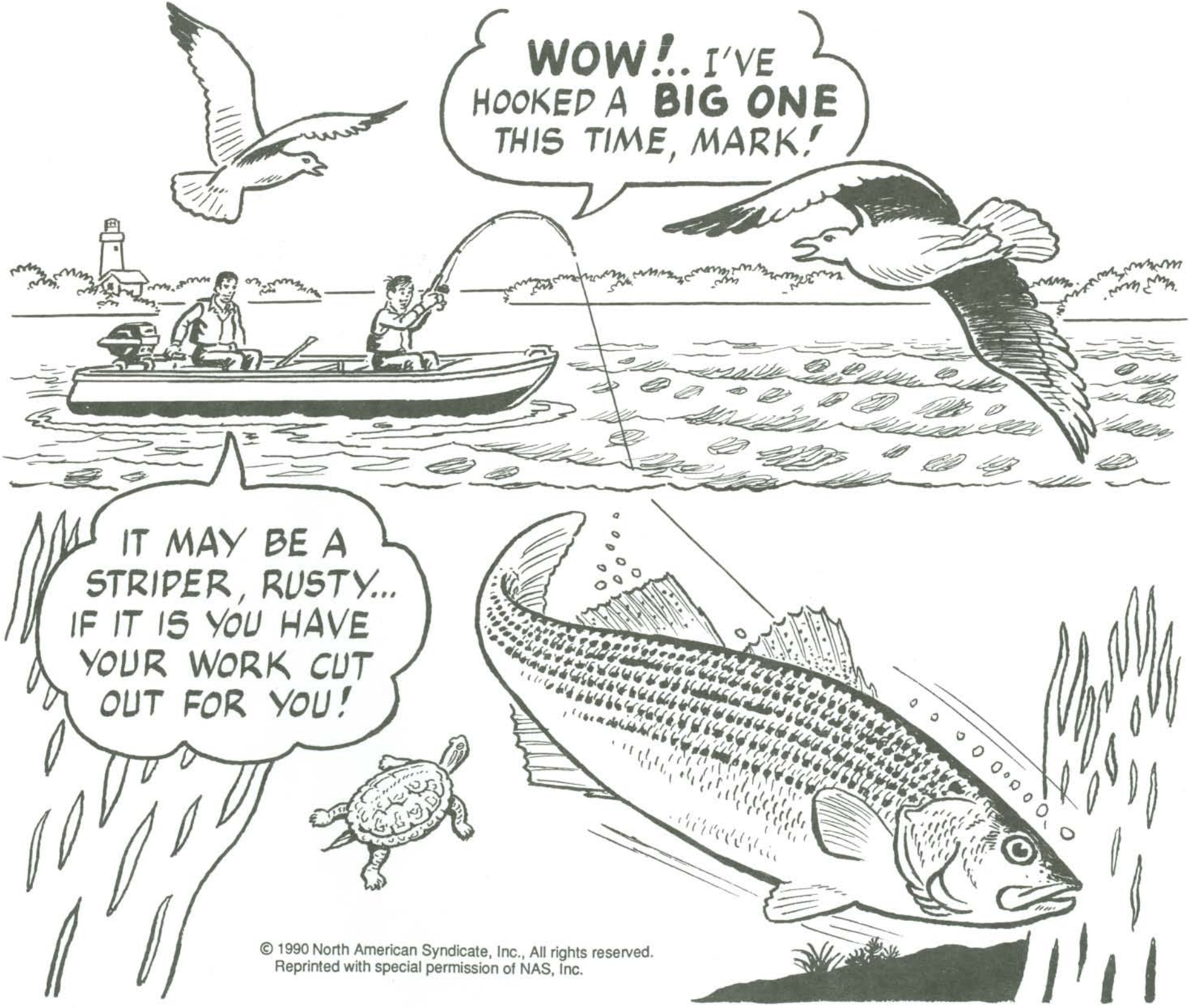
*Mark Trail tells*

# THE STORY OF A FISH IN TROUBLE

Striped Bass

JUN 23 1992
DEPOSITORY
92 346

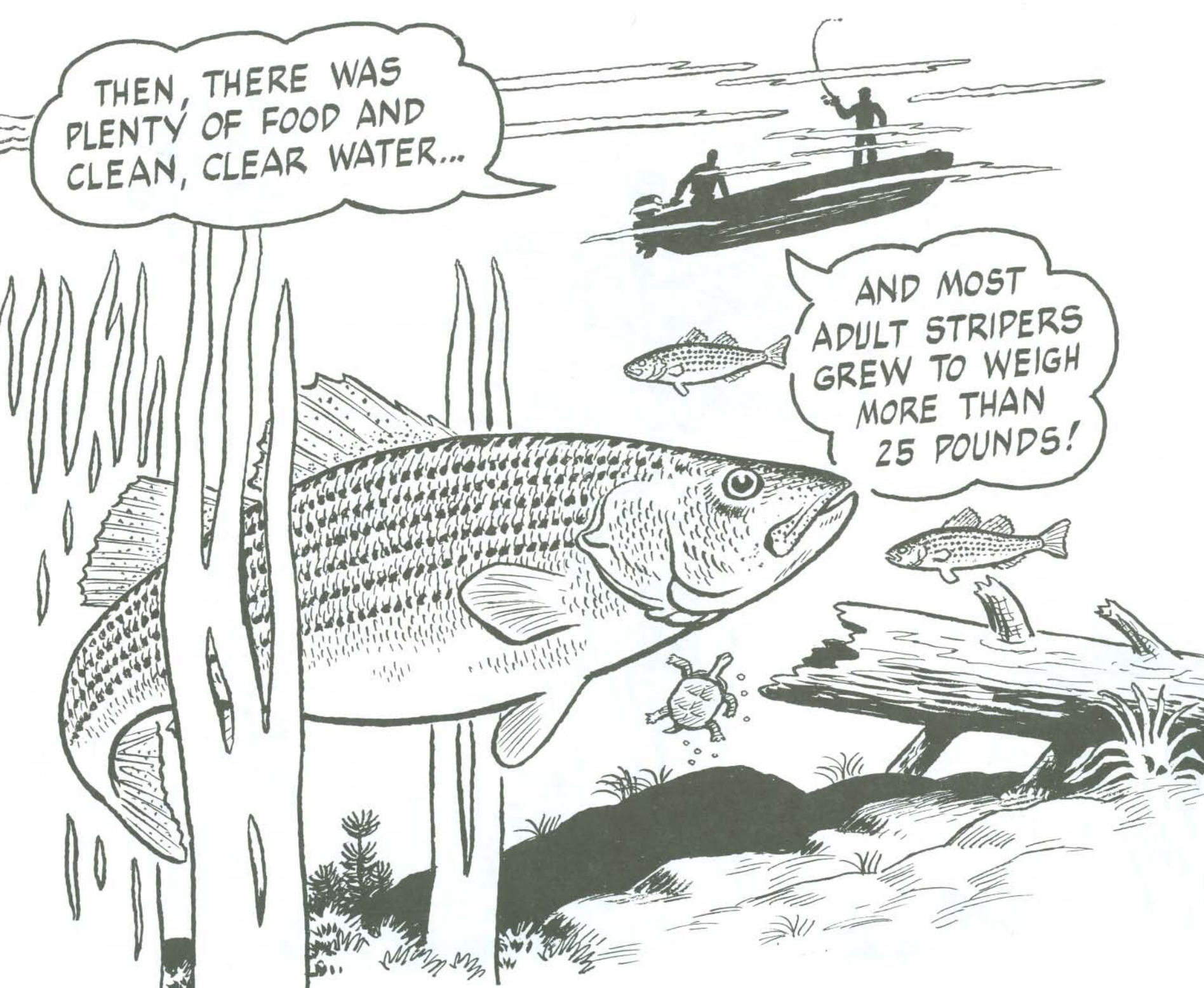
CREATED BY HERB REICHELT
ART BY JACK ELROD

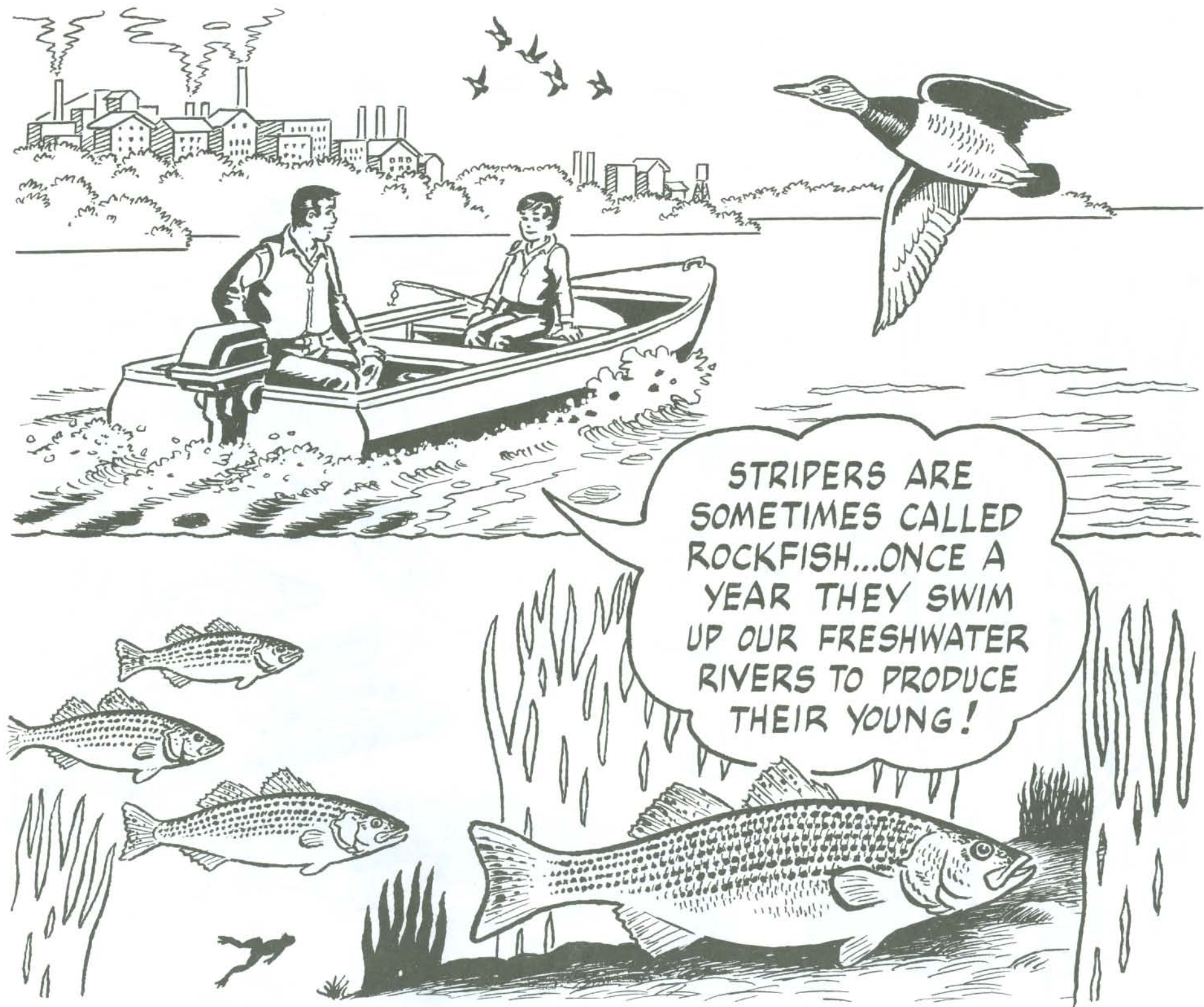


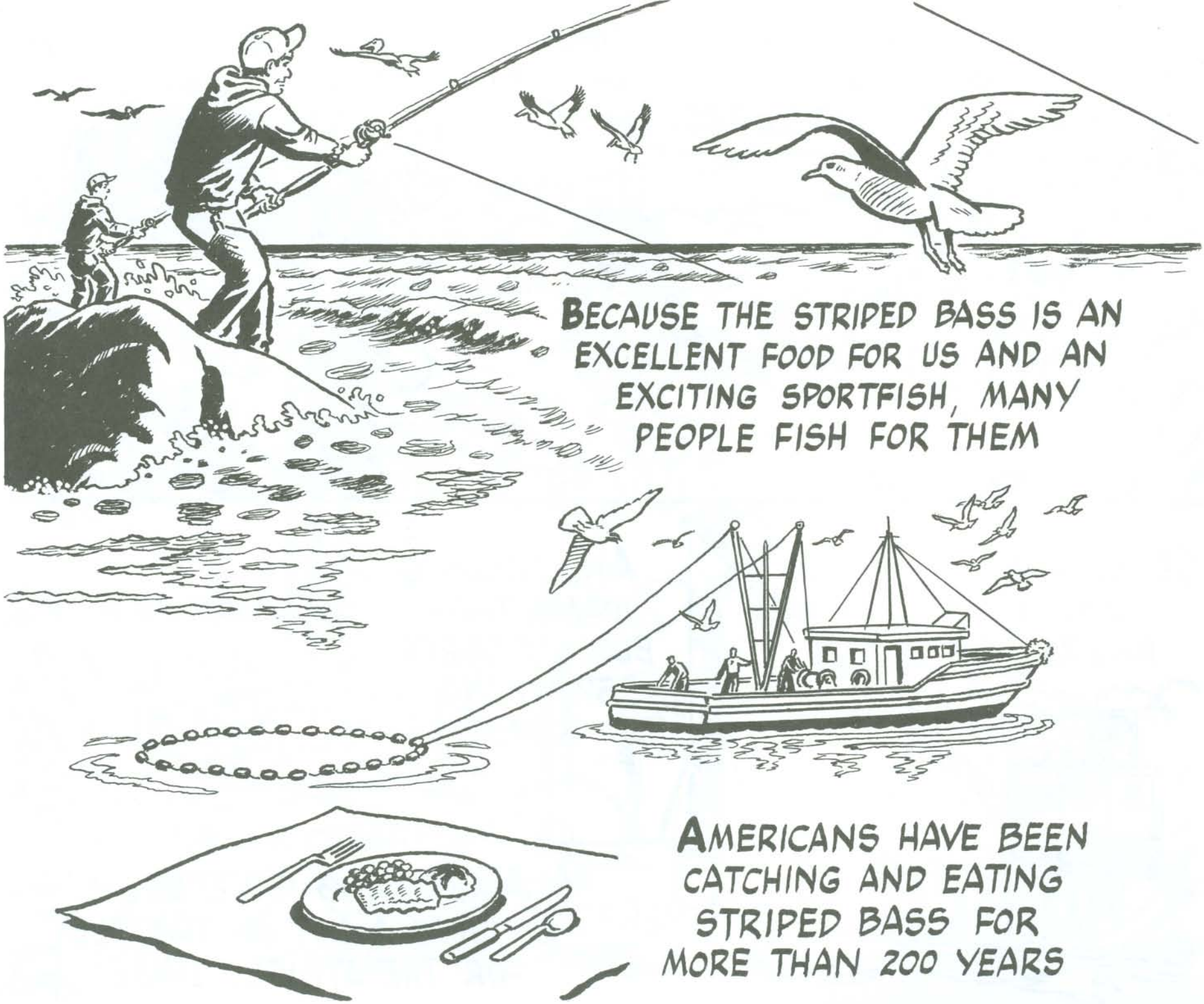

© 1990 North American Syndicate, Inc., All rights reserved.
Reprinted with special permission of NAS, Inc.

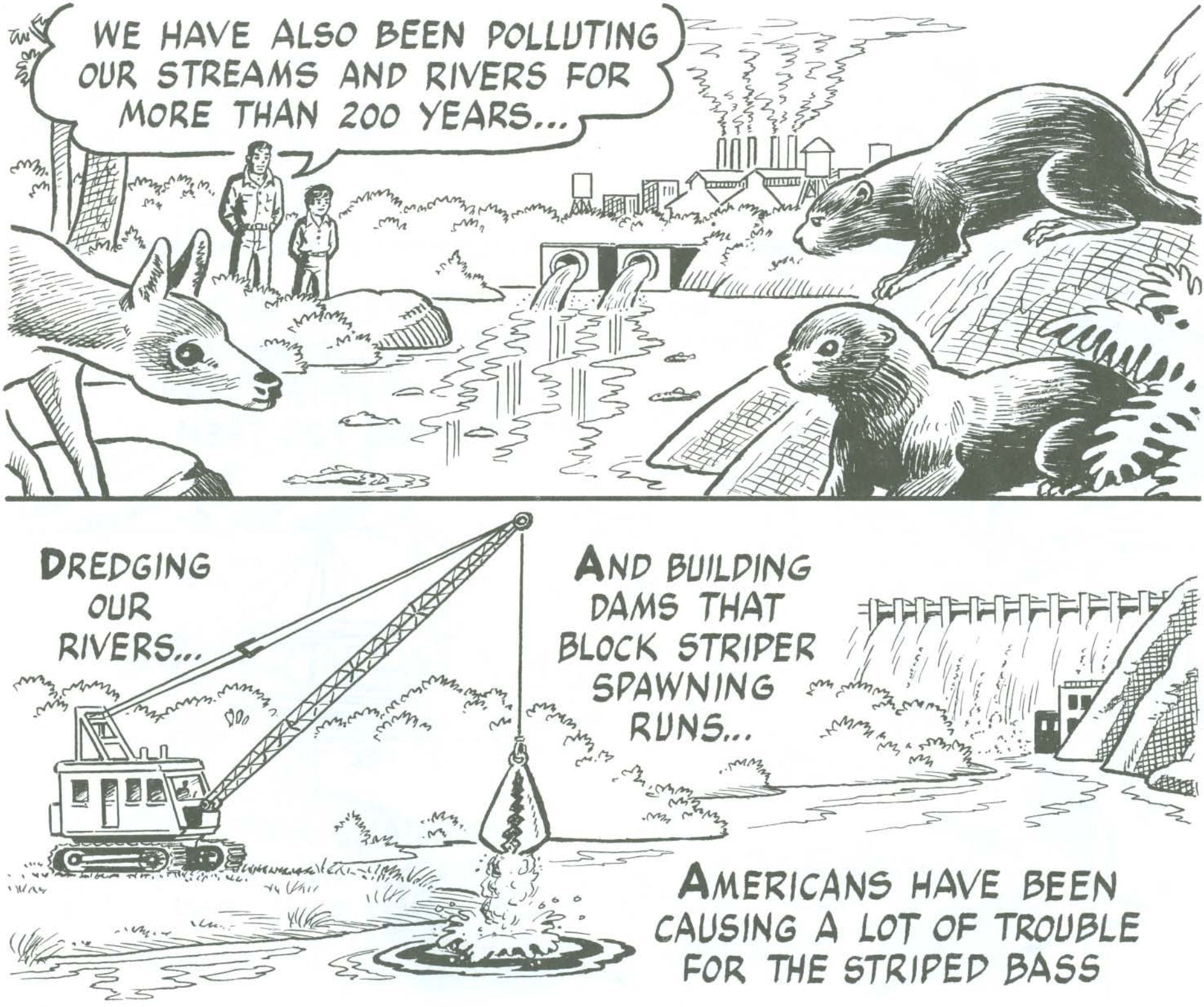
THAT ONE REALLY GAVE ME A FIGHT!.. WHY HAVEN'T WE CAUGHT ANY STRIPERS ON OUR OTHER FISHING TRIPS?
I HAVEN'T SEEN A STRIPER THIS SIZE IN YEARS, RUSTY!

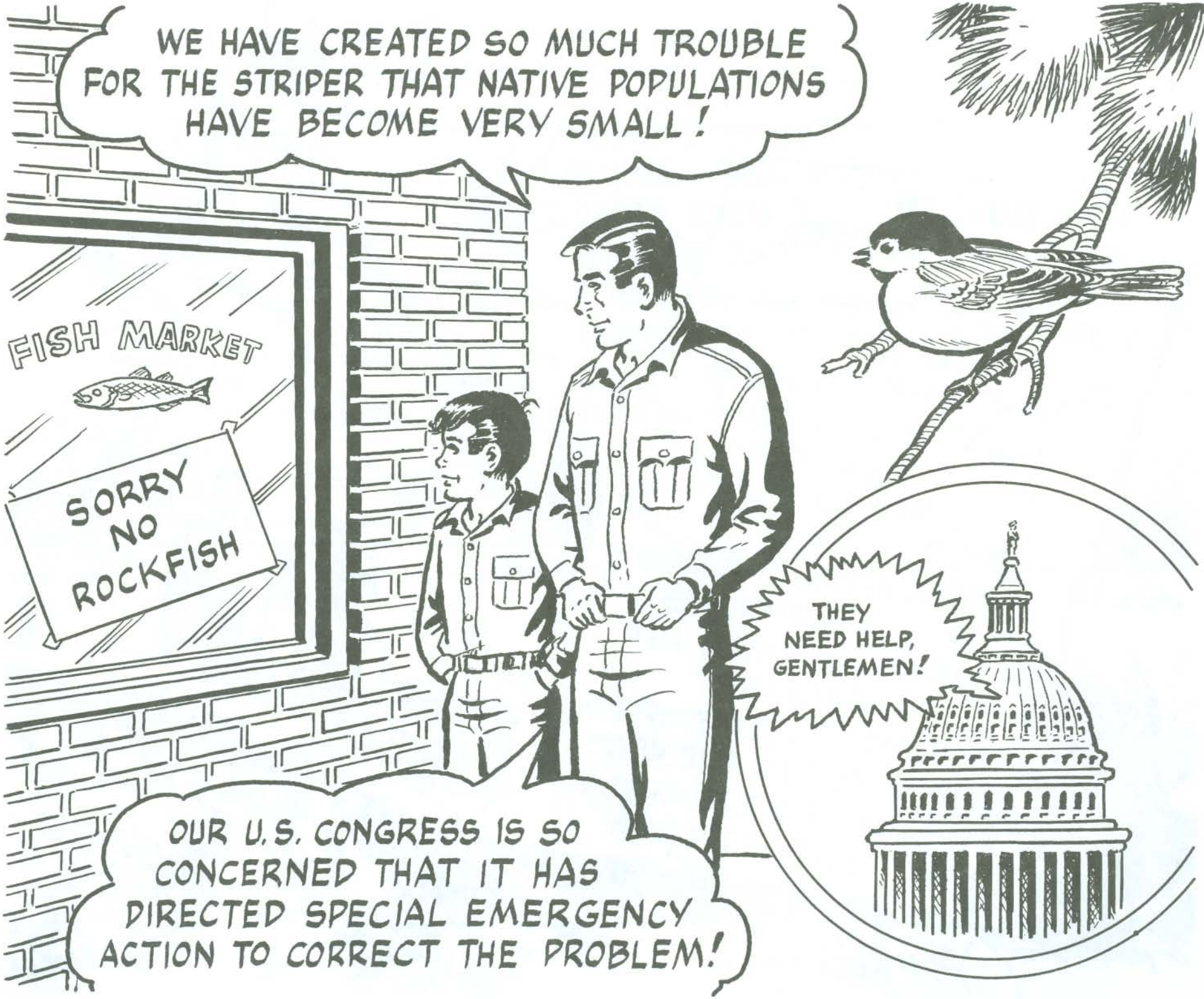
BACK WHEN OUR NATION WAS YOUNG, LARGE NUMBERS OF STRIPED BASS LIVED IN OUR COASTAL WATERS
IN FACT STRIPERS WERE SO PLENTIFUL THAT EARLY AMERICANS USED THEM FOR FERTILIZER

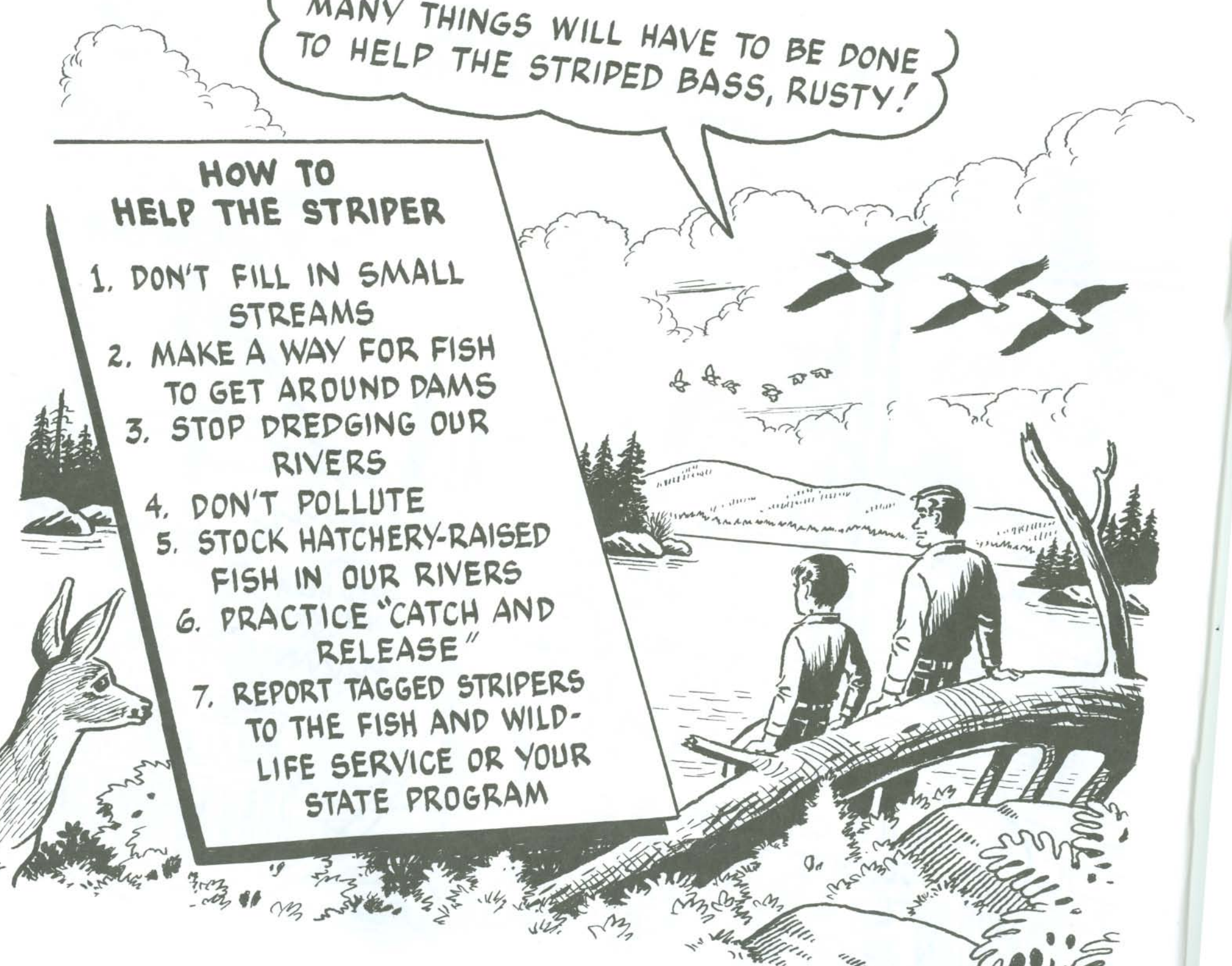

THEN, THERE WAS PLENTY OF FOOD AND CLEAN, CLEAR WATER...
AND MOST ADULT STRIPERS GREW TO WEIGH MORE THAN 25 POUNDS!

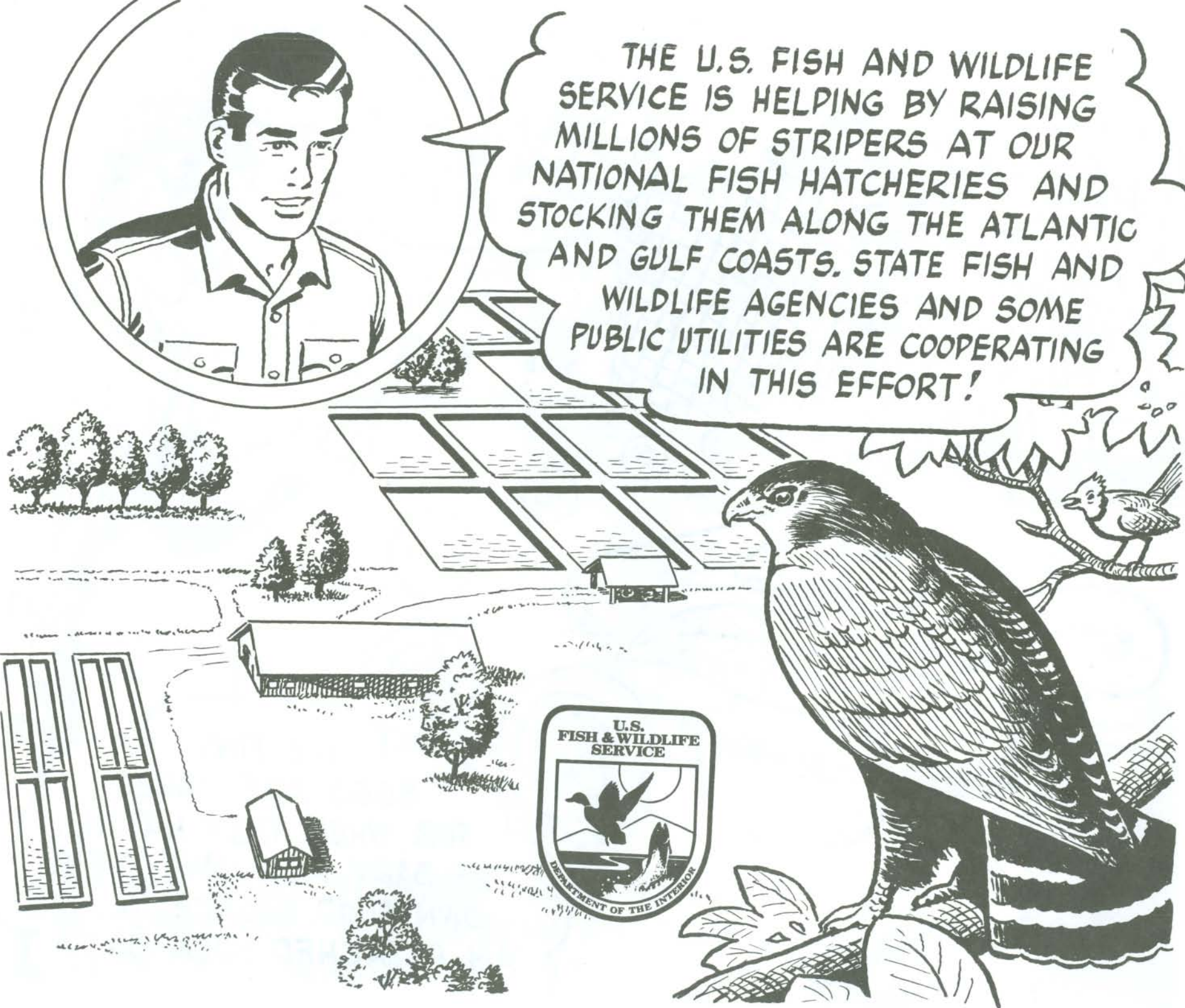

STRIPERS ARE SOMETIMES CALLED ROCKFISH...ONCE A YEAR THEY SWIM UP OUR FRESHWATER RIVERS TO PRODUCE THEIR YOUNG!

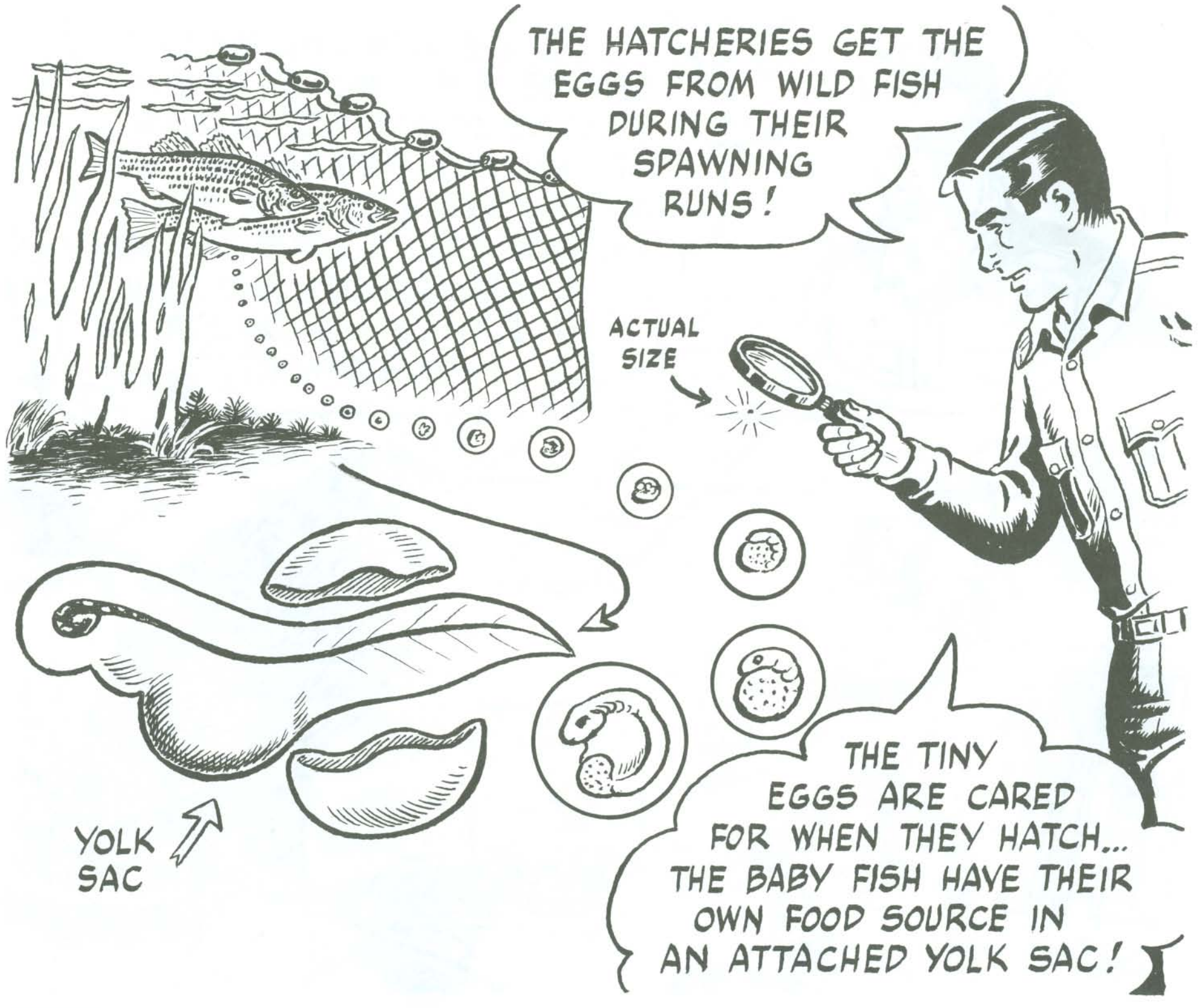

BECAUSE THE STRIPED BASS IS AN EXCELLENT FOOD FOR US AND AN EXCITING SPORTFISH, MANY PEOPLE FISH FOR THEM
AMERICANS HAVE BEEN CATCHING AND EATING STRIPED BASS FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS

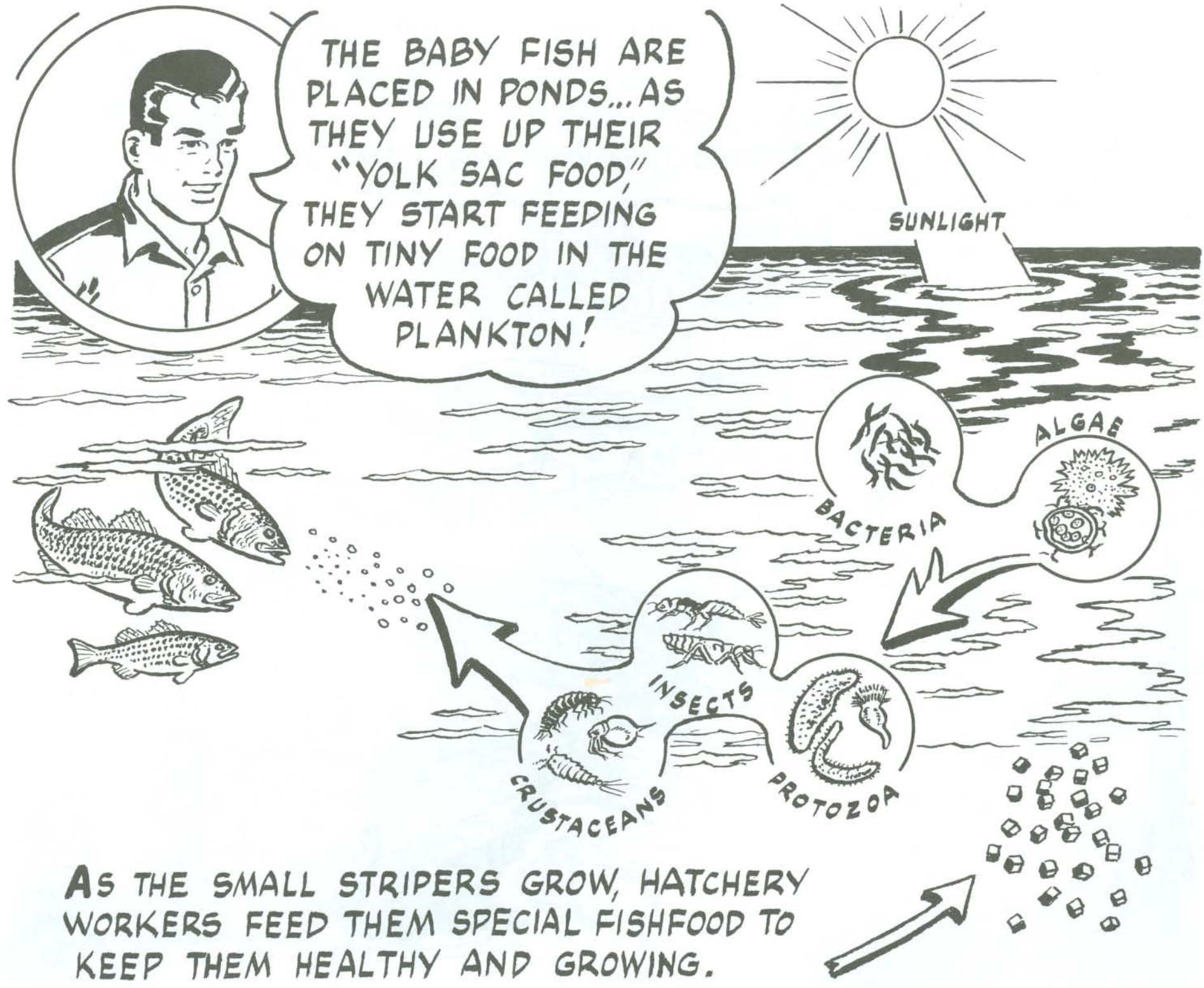

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN POLLUTING OUR STREAMS AND RIVERS FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS...
DREDGING OUR RIVERS...
AND BUILDING DAMS THAT BLOCK STRIPER SPAWNING RUNS...
AMERICANS HAVE BEEN CAUSING A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR THE STRIPED BASS

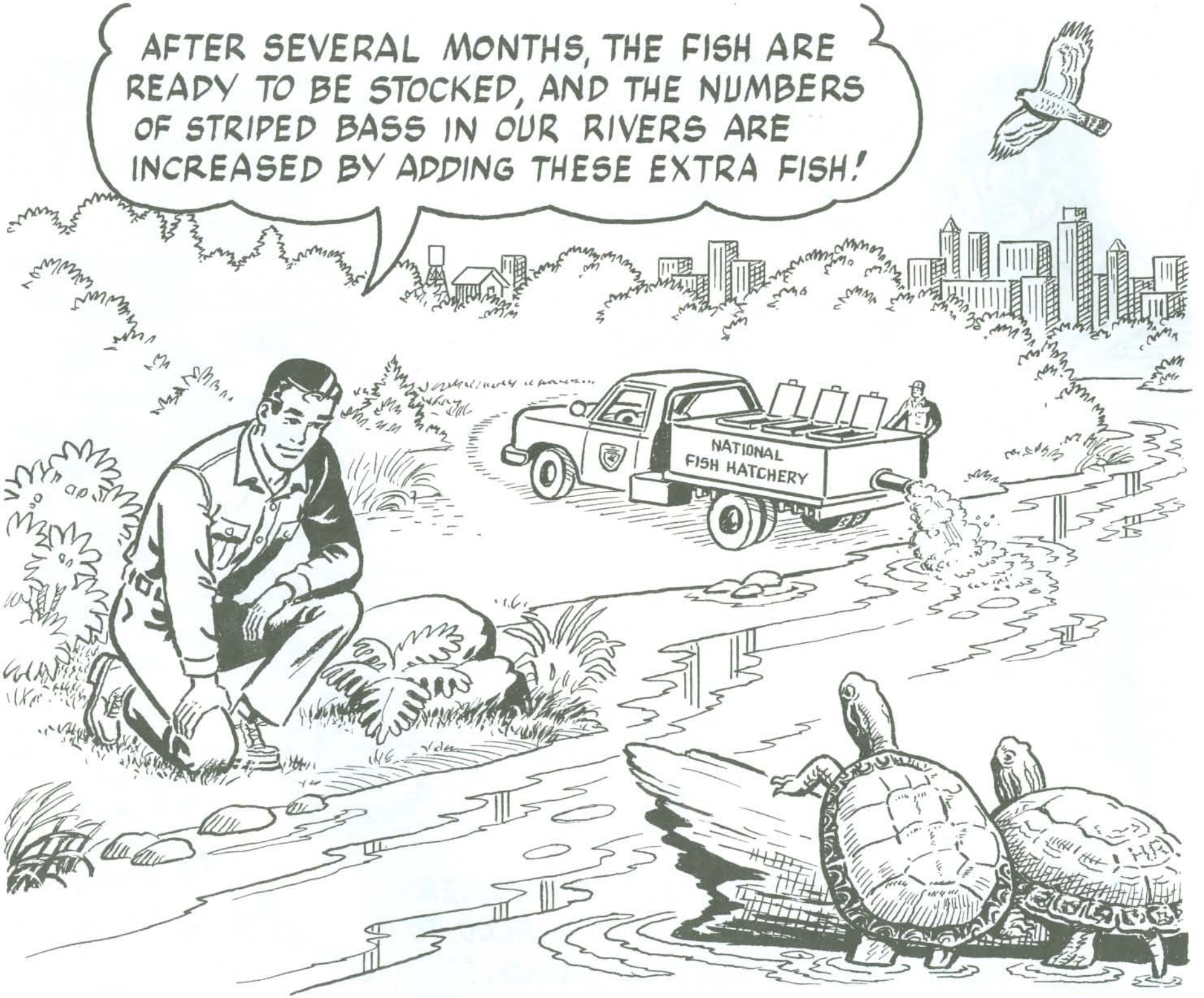

WE HAVE CREATED SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR THE STRIPER THAT NATIVE POPULATIONS HAVE BECOME VERY SMALL!
FISH MARKET
SORRY NO ROCKFISH
THEY NEED HELP, GENTLEMEN!
OUR U.S. CONGRESS IS SO CONCERNED THAT IT HAS DIRECTED SPECIAL EMERGENCY ACTION TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM!

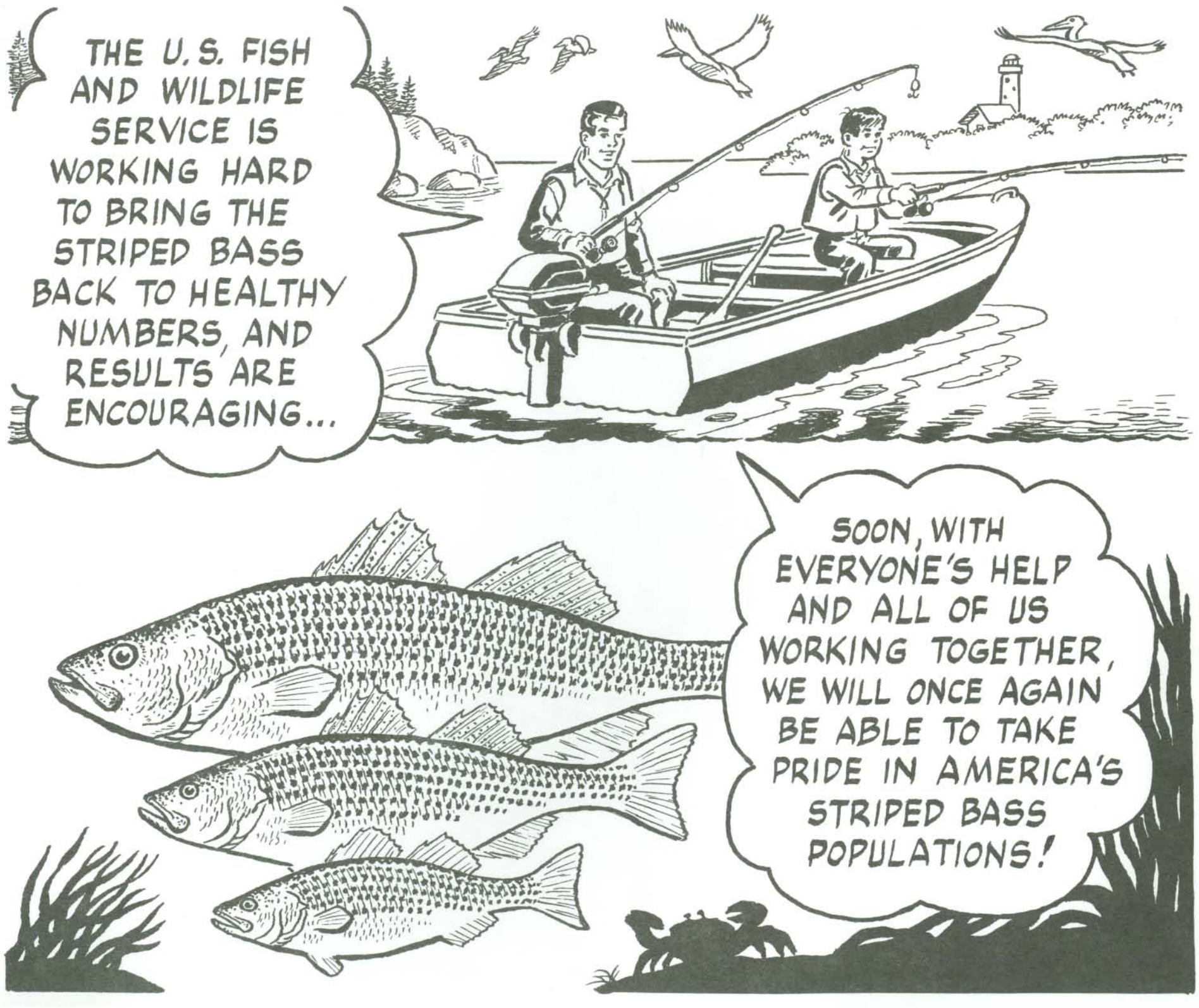

MANY THINGS WILL HAVE TO BE DONE TO HELP THE STRIPED BASS, RUSTY!
HOW TO HELP THE STRIPER
1. DON'T FILL IN SMALL STREAMS
2. MAKE A WAY FOR FISH TO GET AROUND DAMS
3. STOP DREDGING OUR RIVERS
4. DON'T POLLUTE
5. STOCK HATCHERY-RAISED FISH IN OUR RIVERS
6. PRACTICE "CATCH AND RELEASE"
7. REPORT TAGGED STRIPERS TO THE FISH AND WILD-LIFE SERVICE OR YOUR STATE PROGRAM


THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IS HELPING BY RAISING MILLIONS OF STRIPERS AT OUR NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES AND STOCKING THEM ALONG THE ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS. STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES AND SOME PUBLIC UTILITIES ARE COOPERATING IN THIS EFFORT!
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR


THE HATCHERIES GET THE EGGS FROM WILD FISH DURING THEIR SPAWNING RUNS!
ACTUAL SIZE
YOLK SAC
THE TINY EGGS ARE CARED FOR WHEN THEY HATCH... THE BABY FISH HAVE THEIR OWN FOOD SOURCE IN AN ATTACHED YOLK SAC!


THE BABY FISH ARE PLACED IN PONDS... AS THEY USE UP THEIR "YOLK SAC FOOD," THEY START FEEDING ON TINY FOOD IN THE WATER CALLED PLANKTON!
SUNLIGHT
ALGAE
BACTERIA
INSECTS
CRUSTACEANS
PROTOZOA
AS THE SMALL STRIPERS GROW, HATCHERY WORKERS FEED THEM SPECIAL FISHFOOD TO KEEP THEM HEALTHY AND GROWING.


AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS, THE FISH ARE READY TO BE STOCKED, AND THE NUMBERS OF STRIPED BASS IN OUR RIVERS ARE INCREASED BY ADDING THESE EXTRA FISH!
NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY


THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IS WORKING HARD TO BRING THE STRIPED BASS BACK TO HEALTHY NUMBERS, AND RESULTS ARE ENCOURAGING...
SOON, WITH EVERYONE'S HELP AND ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER, WE WILL ONCE AGAIN BE ABLE TO TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA'S STRIPED BASS POPULATIONS!

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal agency through which the Federal Government carries out its responsibilities to conserve, protect, and enhance the nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people.

Jack Elrod is a syndicated cartoonist whose outdoor adventure strip, "Mark Trail," appears in more than 200 daily and Sunday newspaper comic sections across the United States.

Herb Reichelt is a wildlife interpretive specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who specializes in interpreting fish biology through aquariums, exhibits, and publications.